



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JASPER COUNTY CLEMENTA C. PINCKNEY BUILDING
358 THIRD AVENUE RIDGELAND, SC 29936
DECEMBER 2, 2019
MINUTES**

Call to Order – Vice Chairman Etheridge called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 P.M in order to enter into Executive Session.

Officials Present: Chairman D. Thomas Johnson, Vice Chairman Henry Etheridge, Councilwoman Barbara B. Clark, Councilman L. Martin Sauls, IV, Councilman Dr. Curtis Brantley

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Acting Clerk to Council Tisha L. Williams, County Attorney David Tedder, Director of Emergency Management Services Chief Frank Edwards

Upon Motion by Vice Chairman Etheridge as Councilwoman Clark seconds to enter into Council Executive Session to discuss matters as listed on the posted Agenda, the Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Executive Session

Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body; however, if an adversary hearing involving the employee or client is held, the employee or client has the right to demand that a hearing be conducted publicly. Nothing contained in this item shall prevent the public body, in its discretion, from deleting the names of the other employees or clients whose records are submitted for use at the hearing – Clerk to Council

Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contract arrangements and proposed purchase or sale of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice related to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim – Solicitor's Office

Discussion regarding development of security personnel or devices – Information Technology

Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by a public body -- Section 30-4-70(a)(5) – Jasper Ocean Terminal (JOT), Prospect Update

Vice Chairman Etheridge moves and Councilwoman Woman Clark seconds the motion to return to Open Session. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Return to Open Session at approximately 6:43 P.M.

Chairman Johnson asked if there are any matters to be brought forward from Executive Session.

Vice Chairman Etheridge moved to adopt a Resolution to the Jasper Ocean Terminal, with the Resolution to be amended to reflect in the recital the legal actions taken prior to 2007 which time is Jasper County's efforts to build the Port initially. Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers voting in Favor.

Councilman Sauls stated that there was an additional Motion. Councilman Sauls moved to Authorize the Administrator to contract with the Southern Strategy Group to assist with the Economic Development of Jasper County and specifically the Jasper Ocean Terminal with the County Attorney directed to assist the Administrator in preparing a contract with appropriate terms and conditions including periodic reporting with the monthly expenditures not to exceed \$5,000.00, and the money would be coming out of the Economic Development fund. Councilwoman Clark seconds the Motion with all Members present voting in favor. The Motion passes.

Chairman Johnson asked if there are any other matters to be brought forward from Executive Session.

Councilwoman Clark moved to approve and Authorize the County Administrator to execute the proposed Agreement between Jasper County and the 14th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office regarding the division of Bond Street Funds generated when bond money is forfeited in Criminal proceedings. Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion with all Members present voting in favor. The Motion passes.

Vice Chairman moved to have Executive Session come to a close, Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion. All members voting in favor and the Motion passes.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Chairman Etheridge and in unison

Invocation given by Councilman Brantley

Approval of Agenda

Councilman Sauls moved as Councilwoman Clark seconds the Motion to approve the Agenda as previously posted and presented. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Approval of the Minutes – November 18, 2019

Vice Chairman Etheridge moved to approve the Minutes of November 18, 2019 as Councilwoman Clark seconds the motion. All Members present voting in favor, motion passes to approve the Minutes.

Presentations and Proclamations

CEO of Palmetto Coop Mr. Berl Davis- UTC Presentation

Mr. Davis thanked the County Council for their foresight initiative to start the Cypress Ridge/Palmetto Coop Park adding that the Coop's first contribution of Utility Tax Credits, which maybe known by some as the Rural Development Act "monies" back in 1997. Mr. Davis stated that he would like to give the County Council a lot of credit for starting the park and getting businesses as well as promoting economic

development in Jasper County, in which Mr. Davis added that he is proud to present the County Council with a check for \$115,000.00 to do some engineering and drainage work for Spec Building #4 in the park. Since 1997, Palmetto has given over \$3.1 Million towards the development of buildings and infrastructure of the park. Mr. Davis asked Chairman Johnson to come forward and accept the check for \$115,000.00. Chairman Johnson accepted the check on behalf of the Jasper County Council.

Open Floor to the Public

Per ordinance 08-17 any citizen of the County may sign to speak before the Council on matters pertaining to County Services and Operations. Presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes and total public input will be limited to 30 minutes.

Chairman Johnson opens the floor to the Public.

Ms. Cathleen Mervin and Dr. LaQuandra Stevenson

Ms. Mervin and Dr. Stevenson came before Council stating that they are both residents of Jasper County and wanted to share some great information regarding an event they would hope the County Council would support. The Event would be to honor the Honorable Reverend Senator Clemente Pinckney, which would consist of one of the things he was passionate about and that was health, the community as a whole and it's wellbeing. Ms. Mervin stated to Council that she hopes that they would consider supporting a yearly event every third Saturday in June, in hopes to hold the very first event Saturday, June 20, 2020. The event will consist of a 5k Walk & Run and health fair. Team Pickney members consist of family and friends under the advisement of Mrs. Pinckney. Dr. Stevenson thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and gave their regrets on behalf of Mrs. Pinckney in her absence as she had other obligations to attend to.

Councilman Sauls inquired if anyone wanted to support via a donation, would that be possible and both Dr. Stevenson and Ms. Mervin answered absolutely as it will go through an online link that Mrs. Pinckney has setup. Councilman Sauls asked if they could give him a call when that time is approaching as he would like to make a contribution.

Chairman Johnson closes the floor.

New Business

Kim Burgess – Request to Accept Grant Offer of \$194,584 from SC Aeronautics Commission for Ridgeland-Claude Dean Airport Expansion Project

Ms. Burgess came before Council to request their approval to allow the County Administrator to accept the grant awarded by the SC Aeronautics Commission which is 5% of the total grant. The Total cost of the project is \$3,891,691 for the next phase and the total of the State Grant is \$194,584.00.

Councilman Sauls moves as Councilwoman Clark seconds the Motion, All Members present voting in Favor and the Motion passes.

Frank Edwards – Request for Approval to Purchase Cardiac Monitors

Chief Edwards requested approval to purchase four Life Pack 15 Cardiac Monitors for the ambulances with associated support equipment in the amount of \$139,060.40 from Striker which is part of the FEMA grant that was awarded earlier this year. The purchase includes a 3 year maintenance agreement and the County match amount is 10% or \$13,906.04 of which that money is already budgeted.

Councilman Sauls moves as Vice Chairman Etheridge seconds the Motion. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Council Members' Comments

Councilman Sauls stated that Thanksgiving was good and he had a lot to be thankful for.

Councilwoman Clark stated that she didn't have anything for Council Comment

Councilman Brantley stated that he didn't have anything for Council Comment

Vice Chairman Etheridge stated that he's had plenty of complaints regarding maintenance needing to be done on the roads, and the Maintenance Department has done what they needed to.

Chairman Johnson stated that he's been working on his obsession with the Port and hopes to soon have something to share regarding it.

Administrator's Report presented by Mr. Fulghum to Council, mentioned there's a couple of reminders about some Meetings that they have going forward this week and the Holiday Celebration happening in Council Chambers December 11, 2019 and wished them a Merry Christmas.

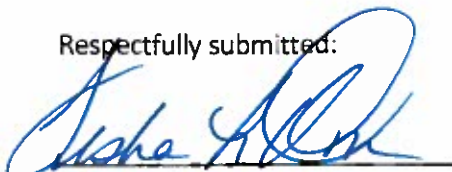
Council in return wished everyone in attendance a Merry Christmas.

Adjourn

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilwoman Clark seconds the Motion to adjourn. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor. Meeting Adjourned

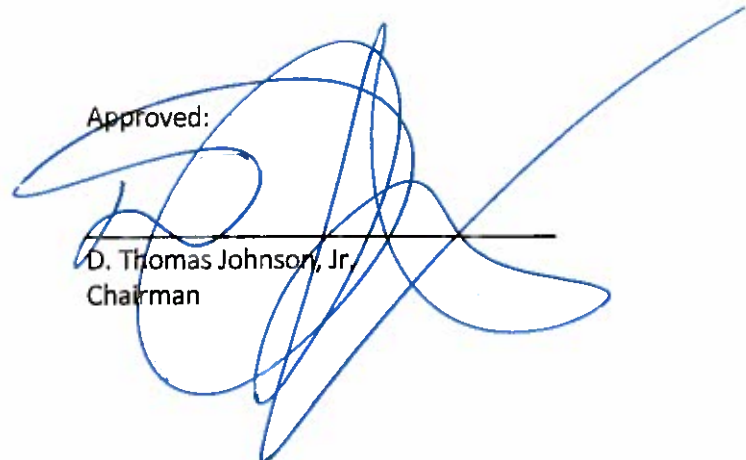
Meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:



Tisha L. Williams
Acting Clerk to Council

Approved:



D. Thomas Johnson, Jr.
Chairman